

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 260184
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 260184

NODIS

NOFORN WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 17950 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 31 OCT 77

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 17950

NODIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EG US

SUBJ: MIG-21 MAINTENANCE

REF CAIRO 17787

1. COL. DOLAN MET TODAY AT THE INVITATION OF THE BRITISH AIR
ATTACHE WITH THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF ROLLS ROYCE, ALEC
HARVEY-BAILEY. COL. DOLAN EXPLAINED OUR INTEREST IN DETER-
MINING SPARE PARTS AND THE REVERSE ENGINEERING SITUATION WITH
RESPECT TO THE ROLLS ROYCE EFFORT FOR THE GYPTIAN AIR FORCE

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(EAF). HARVEY-BAILEY THEN EXPLAINED THE HISTORICAL DEVELOP-
MENT OF THE ROLLS ROYCE EFFORT WITH THE EAF. SEVERAL POINTS
ARE WORTH NOTING.

(A) THE ORIGINAL REQUEST THE EAF HAD MADE TO ROLLS ROYCE
IN 1976 WAS FOR THE REPAIR/OVERHAUL OF THE TOTAL MIG-21 ENGINE
REQUIREMENT, THRE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE ENGINES, 1976 THROUGH
80.

(B) WHEN THE COST WAS DETERMINED, EAF WANTED TO HAGGLE ABOUT PRICE. ROLLS REFUSED AND INDICATED THE ONLY WAY TO REDUCE PRICE WAS TO REDUCE NUMBEC . EAF THEN CUT THE NUMBER OF ENGINES BY APPROXIMATELY 100 TO ARRIVE AT AN ACCEPTABLE COST.

(C) ALTHOUGH UNTIL RECENTLY THE PRODUCTION TARGETS WERE BEING MET, THE EFFECTS OF AN ACCIDENT AT THE HELWAN FACILITY (NOT IN THE ENGINE SHOP) HAVE DRASTICALLY CUT THE AVAILABLE MANHOURS AND AT CURRENT RATES THE SHOP WILL BE UNABLE TO KEEP ITS COMMITMENTS.

(D) PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT, WHICH OCCURRED IN AUGUST 1977, ROLLS WAS PUT ON CONTRACT TO DEVELOP A MANAGEMENT PLAN, WHICH IS STILL IN DRAFT, FOR THE ENTIRE WORKSHOP AT HELWAN. (IN SPITE OF EAF CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY, WESTERNERS WHO HAVE SEEN THE SHOPS FEEL THEY ARE SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERUTILIZED.) HARVEY-BAILEY BELIEVES THAT IF THE EAF WILL MAKE CHANGES IN THEIR OPERATION, THE FACILITY AT HELWAN COULD DO THE EXTRA ONE HUNDRED ENGINES OVER THE NEXT THEEE YEARS, AND COULD DO IT MORE ECONOMICALLY THAN ANY OTHER WAY. IF T EREQUIREMENT WAS FOR ONE HUNDRED MORE A YEAR, AS WE WERE ORIGINALLY LED TO BELIEVE, THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

(E) THE BRITISH RECOGNIZE THAT APART FROM CONSIDERATIONS OF CAPACITY AND ECONOMY, THERE MAY BE REASONS WHY GOE WOULD WISH TO INVOLVE GOVERNMENTS IN ADDITION TO U.K. IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THEIR MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

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HARVEY-BAILEY BELIEVES THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING TO A THIRD COUNTRY THROUGH THE EGYPTIANS THE RESULTS OF THE REVERSE ENGINEERING (WHICH BELONGS TO GOE) OR SALE OF THE PARTS FOR WHICH ROLLS HAS HAD TO SET UP A MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY.

(F) OF THE PARTS WHICH ROLLS HAS HAD TO FABRICATE, MOST ARE SMALL BITS AND PIECES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HAS BEEN COMPRESSOR BLADES. THEY HAVE REFUSED TO CONSIDER SHAFTS AND TURBINE WHEELS AS THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOVIET MANUFACTURING PROCESS, WHICH IN ROLLS' VIEW IS CRITICAL TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE ENGINE. OTHER THAN THROUGH CANNIBALIZATION, THERE ARE NO SPARE PARTS EXCEPT FOR THOSE ROLLS' PRODUCES.

2. IT IS HARVEY-BILEY'S OPINION THAT REGARDLESS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH COULD BE MADE BY AN OVERALL REORGANIZATION AT HELWAN, THE EAF WOULD STILL NEED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WITH REPAIR/OVERHAUL OF AIRFRAMES.

3. ROLLS ROYCE INTENDS TO TAKE NO ACTION BASED ON THIS CONVERSATION. HOWEVER, THEY INTEND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO EAF REQUESTS. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE IT IS NOW UP TO

ALFA-ROMERO TO PRESS THE EAF FOR SUCH INFORMATION AS THEY
REQUIRE.

4. RECOMMEND DEPT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO ROME.
EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, SPARE PARTS, CAT-B, MEETINGS, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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